

California Department of Child Support Services

## PRESS RELEASE

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## STATE RECOGNIZES TOP PERFORMING COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT AGENCIES

Awards Spotlight Local Performance in Providing Services to Families

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) presented awards to California's top performing county child support agencies for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2007 during a meeting of the Child Support Director's Association. The top ten county child support agencies – San Luis Obispo, Tuolumne, Alameda, Plumas, Mariposa, Marin, Colusa, Humboldt, Inyo/Mono, and Lassen – represent 23 percent of the state's caseload and collected nearly \$85 million that has been distributed directly to families.

"County performance is critical to the child support program's mission – to establish, pursue, collect and distribute child support dollars for California families," said DCSS Director David Maxwell-Jolly. "My thanks and congratulations go out not only to today's awardees, but to all of our county child support agencies and their staff for their commitment to serving children and families."

DCSS annually recognizes the top performing county agencies based on an average of their rankings in the areas of Percent of Collections on Current Support, Percent of Cases with a Child Support Order, Percent of Cases with Arrears Collections, Cost Effectiveness and Paternity Establishment.

Also recognized were five county child support agencies that showed the most improvement for FFY 2007 in the category of Percent of Collections on Current Support by caseload size: Riverside (very large county), Santa Clara (large), Santa Cruz/San Benito (medium), Lake (small) and Lassen (very small).

DCSS is responsible for ensuring that all functions necessary to establish, collect and distribute child support are effectively and efficiently implemented. In 2007, California's child support state program collected \$2.3 billion and served nearly two million children.

Child support program services are delivered through 52 local child support agencies. The following services are available at no cost to the public: locating a parent; establishing paternity, establishing, modifying and enforcing a court order for child support; and establishing, modifying and enforcing an order for health insurance coverage. For more information, log onto http://www.childsup.ca.gov/.

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